

**1. Advertising****Positives of Advertising**

Advertising is a key part of modern business  
Companies need to tell customers about their products  
Advertisements inform us about the choices we have  
Advertising is a creative industry that employs many people  
Without advertising we would have less choice  
Without advertising there would be higher unemployment  
Advertising is a form of modern art  
People enjoy adverts

**Negatives of Advertising**

Advertising manipulates people  
It aims to persuade people that buying a product will make them happier  
Advertisers focus on selling a brand image  
They use glamorous, successful people  
We now live in a consumer culture  
We are persuaded to follow the latest trend  
We are encouraged to associate certain brands with a higher status  
Advertisers often aim their marketing at children  
Children can easily be influenced by advertisements.  
Children put pressure on parents to buy them things

**Opinions about Advertising**

Advertising should be regulated  
Advertising aimed at children should be controlled or even banned  
Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children  
Products that can be risk to healthy should display warnings  
In some countries it is illegal to advertise cigarettes on television  
Warnings must be displayed on cigarette packets  
However, advertising is necessary in free market economies  
It creates demand for products  
Governments should only censor false information or products that are harmful

**2. Animal rights****Arguments for Animal Testing**

Animals are used in important scientific research  
It is necessary to do medical tests on new drugs  
Animal testing helps to advance medical and scientific knowledge  
Many important medical discoveries involved experimentation on animals  
Researchers aim to minimize the suffering that animals experience  
Testing for the cosmetics industry is now banned in many countries

**Arguments against Animal Testing**

The benefits of research using animals do not justify the suffering caused  
There are alternative methods of research  
The lives of animals should be respected  
Humans have no moral right to do experiments on animals

**Arguments for Vegetarianism**

Vegetarians do not eat foods that are produced by killing animals  
Many people choose a vegetarian diet for moral or health reasons  
A healthy diet is possible without eating meat  
It is unnecessary to kill animal for food  
A vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of disease like cancer  
Many people question the treatment of animals in factory farms

**Arguments against Vegetarianism**

Vegetarians do not eat a balanced diet  
In many cultures, meat is the main ingredient in traditional meals  
Meat-eaters argue that animals are below humans in the food chain  
It is completely natural for us to kill them for food  
Our aim should be improve farming methods  
Farms should produce organic food  
Positives of Zoos  
Zoos paly an important role in wildlife conservation  
They can help to protect endangered species  
Zoos allow scientists to study animals and their behavior  
Zoos are educational, interesting and fun  
Children, in particular, enjoy learning about animals  
Zoos provide job opportunities.

**Negatives of Zoos**

Zoo animals are kept in artificial environments  
They are kept in cages or have limited space  
Zoo animals rely on humans  
They lose the freedom to hunt for food  
They best way to save endangered species is by protecting natural habitats.  
Some people believe that zoos are unethical  
Zoos exhibits animals with the aim of making money  
We have no right to use animals for entertainment and profit.

**3. Cities****Reasons for Urbanization**

People move to cities in search of job opportunities  
Cities offer greater employment possibilities and a higher standard of living  
People migrate to cities from the countryside  
Traditional activities like farming need fewer workers nowadays

**Negatives of City Life**

Life in cities has its drawbacks  
 The cost of living is higher than in rural areas  
 Some people do not manage to find work  
 Housing is usually much more expensive  
 Homelessness and poverty are common in cities  
 There is a gap between rich and poor  
 Life in cities can be extremely stressful  
 There are problems like traffic congestion and crime  
 Cities lack a sense of community  
 People do not even know their neighbor  
 Cities are sometimes described as “concrete jungles”.

**Pedestrian Areas**

Pedestrian zones in city centre can improve the local environment  
 Banning cars encourages people to walk or cycle  
 Many European cities have built bicycle lanes  
 Dependence on cars is linked to health problems like obesity  
 People who walk or cycle regularly are generally healthier  
 Pedestrian areas are safer and more attractive for both residents and tourists

**4. Crime****Police and Crime Prevention**

The job of the police is to catch criminals  
 They must also prevent crime and make communities safer  
 There should be an increase in the number of police officers on the streets  
 Police officers should be seen as part of the community  
 They should be involved with education and prevention  
 The police should be in close contact with schools  
 They should focus on young people who have dropped out of school.  
 These teenagers may become involved with gangs

**Punishments/Prisons**

Fines are used as punishment for minor crimes  
 If the crime is more serious, prison is the most common punishment  
 Some criminals pose a threat to society  
 They are put in prison to ensure the safety of other citizens

**Negatives of Prisons**

Criminals are put together  
 They make friends with other offenders  
 Many prisoners re-offend when they are released  
 A criminal record makes finding a job more difficult

**Rehabilitation**

Another aim of prisons is rehabilitation  
 Prisoners receive education or vocational training  
 Prisoners should learn personal skills and specific job skills  
 Punishment could make prisoners' behavior worse  
 Rehabilitation aims to make them better citizens  
 Rehabilitated prisoners are less likely to re-offend

**Capital punishment**

Supporters say that capital punishment deters crime  
 Fear of the death penalty stops people from committing offences  
 The death penalty shows that crime is not tolerated  
 It is a form of revenge  
 The cost of imprisonment is avoided  
 The offender cannot pose a threat to others

**Against Capital Punishment**

Innocent people could be wrongly convicted and executed  
 Crime rates are not necessarily reduced  
 Many criminals do not think they will be caught  
 Capital punishment is not a good deterrent  
 Executing prisoners creates a violent culture and encourages revenge  
 We have no right to take another human life

**Community service**

Community service is a way to reform offenders  
 It could be a solution to prison overcrowding  
 It avoids the cost of imprisonment  
 It makes offenders useful in their local communities  
 They are required to clean streets or talk to school groups  
 Offenders repay their community  
 They avoid the negative influence that prison can have

**Against community service**

Community service is not a sufficient punishment  
 Criminals should be locked up, away from their victims

**Crime in the Media**

Crime is one of the main subjects of most news programs.  
 The mass media focus on violent and sensational crimes  
 This leads to fear of crime among the public  
 Sensational stories attract more viewers or readers  
 The media report crime stories in order to increase their audience

**5. Education**

**Benefits of education**

Education gives people knowledge and skills  
People with qualification are more likely to find work  
They can earn a higher salary  
They can contribute positively to society  
Schools aim to teach young people moral values such as tolerance and sharing  
Schools prepare children to be members of a society

**Benefits of Studying Abroad**

Foreign institutions may offer better courses  
Many students want to attend a prestigious university  
The best universities employ teachers who are experts in their fields  
Qualifications gained abroad can open the door to better job opportunities  
Living abroad can broaden students' horizons  
Overseas students are exposed to different cultures and customs.  
They become more independent  
They are responsible for cooking, cleaning and paying bills  
They will learn a foreign language

**Drawback of studying abroad**

Living and studying abroad can be difficult  
Students have problems with paperwork such as visa applications  
The language barrier can be a problem  
Students have to find accommodation and pay bills  
Studying in a foreign language is challenging  
Living alone in an unfamiliar culture can cause homesickness

**Technology in Education: Advantages**

Technology is a powerful tool to engage students  
Technology can make lessons much more interesting  
Students can do research using online resources  
Students can study at their own place  
Adults can take distance learning courses  
Students can study whenever and wherever they want  
Students also learn skills which are useful for their future jobs  
For example, they learn to write reports using a word processor

**Technology in Education: Disadvantages**

People rely too much on computers  
Young learners do not become proficient in some basic skills  
They use word processors and spelling may suffer  
People should be able to write a letter by hand  
Technology is no substitute for a real teacher  
Learners need a structured course  
An experienced teacher knows what materials to choose  
Computers are expensive to maintain and can be unreliable

**Technology in Education: Opinion**

Institutions should supplement traditional teaching with the use of technology  
Technology is part of everyday life  
It can enhance a teacher's lessons  
Students can use online resources to help with homework  
Students must still learn to write by hand  
They should still use traditional sources of information such as books

**Education in Developing countries: Problems**

Children often have to work from an early age  
There are no schools in many areas  
Families do not have access to books or computers  
Literacy rates are often low  
People in developing countries need knowledge and skills  
Education is the key to improving the economy of these countries

**Education in developing countries: solutions**

Developed countries could help developing nations by providing money  
They could invest in schools and technology  
They could supply the funds to build schools and pay for teachers  
Children need to have access to free schooling  
Computer equipment could be donated  
The Internet can expose students to a world of knowledge and information  
Governments should make education compulsory for all children  
They should encourage parents to send their children to school  
Governments of developed and developing countries must work together

**Higher education: Advantages (also see "benefits of education")**

There are many benefits to going to university  
A degree can open the door to better employment prospects  
Economies are becoming increasingly knowledge-based  
Most jobs require specific knowledge and skills  
Skilled workers are needed for sectors such as information technology and engineering  
Repetitive manual jobs are now done by machine  
Many factories have moved to developing countries

**Higher education: Disadvantages**

A healthy economy needs a wide range of workers  
Some manual workers will always be needed  
A university degree is not necessary for many service professions  
Practical training is more important in some industries  
In the UK, for example, there is currently a shortage of plumbers  
Their services are therefore becoming more and more expensive

**Advantage of Home-schooling**

Some parents decide to educate their children at home  
Some families live in isolated areas with poor transport  
Other parents are not satisfied with local schools  
Parents can respond to what their children need and how they learn best  
One-to-one lessons allow much faster progress  
The child can work at his or her own pace  
Discipline problems are avoided by home-schooling

**Disadvantages of home-schooling**

Most parents do not have the time to educate their children at home  
One parent would need to give up work  
School subjects are normally taught by up to ten different teachers  
Most parents do not have the necessary knowledge or resources  
Private tutors are expensive  
Children will miss out on the social experience that school offers  
At school, children learn how to get on with each other  
Home-schooled children may lack social skills  
Schools offer a better overall educational experience

**Bad behavior in schools: causes**

Bad behavior is due to a lack of structure and discipline  
There are too many children in some classes  
Large classes are difficult to manage  
May disruptive students come from an unstable family background  
Other parents are too lenient and spoil their children  
Some children are used to getting whatever they want  
Schools can do very little if they are not supported by parents

**Bad behavior in schools: solutions**

Schools need a clear code of conduct  
Schools need a clear set of rules about behavior  
They need to create a positive working atmosphere  
Teachers must have the power to punish disruptive students  
Schools should remove difficult children from lessons  
Schools need to work closely with parents  
Discipline could be lacking at home  
Parents must support the school rules  
They should take responsibility for their children's behavior

**Corporal Punishment: Opinion**

Corporal Punishment is not a good idea  
Physical punishment is a way of controlling children using fear  
This does not promote trust between adults and children  
Children who are punished physically may become shy or resentful  
Corporal punishment creates an atmosphere of fear and anger

**Single Sex Education: Advantages**

Some people believe that male and female students should go to separate schools  
This is often for religious or cultural reasons  
Discipline problems might be avoided by separating boys and girls  
Boys and girls may learn in different ways and have different needs

Student at single-sex schools often get better exam grades.

**Single-sex Education: Disadvantages**

Separating boys and girls is unnecessary  
It is unhealthy in terms of children's social development  
Many coeducational schools are extremely successful  
A mixed-sex environment is more representative of real life  
Coeducational schools provide children with better social skills for adult life

**Advantages of Streaming (grouping children according to ability)**

Some schools separate students according to their academic ability  
Teachers can work at the right speed for their students  
Teachers can plan more suitable lessons  
High-level groups may progress faster  
Lower level groups can benefit from a slower pace  
Some teachers and parents support streaming for these reasons

**Disadvantages of Streaming**

Grouping by ability may have a negative impact on students  
Children do not want to be seen as less intelligent than others  
Streaming could damage students' self esteem  
They may lose motivation  
Students from wealthier families tend to be better prepared  
Children from poorer families may receive less support from parents  
Mixed ability classes encourage everyone to achieve their potential.

**6. Environment****Global warming**

Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun  
This causes global temperatures to rise  
This process is known as the greenhouse effect  
Human activity is a major factor in the rise of the greenhouse gases  
Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes  
Many developing countries are becoming industrialized  
The number of cars on our streets is growing  
Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly

**Effects of Global Warming**

Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet  
Rising temperature will cause melting of the polar ice caps

Sea levels will rise  
 We can expect more extreme weather conditions  
 Flooding and droughts may become more common

#### Impacts of humans on the environment

The increasing world population is putting pressure on natural resources  
 Fossil fuels like oil and gas are running out  
 We are destroying wildlife habitats  
 We have cut down enormous areas of rainforest  
 This has led to the extinction of many species of animals and plants

#### Solutions to environment problems

Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories  
 They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power  
 They could impose “green taxes” on drivers and airlines companies  
 Government campaigns should promote recycling  
 Natural areas and wild animals should be protected  
 Individuals should also try to be greener  
 We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays  
 We should take public transport rather than driving  
 We should choose products with less packaging  
 We should recycle as much as possible

#### Waste/rubbish

The amount of waste we produce has increased  
 This problem is a result of our consumer culture  
 Products are not made to last  
 If something breaks, we throw it away and buy a new one  
 Advertisers encourage us to buy the newest fashions  
 Packaging is an important part of selling  
 Most foods are sold in non-biodegradable plastic packaging  
 The amount of household waste is growing  
 This waste ends up in landfill sites

#### Litter

People do not think about the consequences of dropping rubbish  
 They assume that somebody is paid to clean the streets  
 Plastic packaging does not break down easily  
 Most of the litter seen on streets is fast food packaging

#### Recycling and other solutions

Companies should make goods that last longer  
 They should not use so much packaging  
 Governments should be stricter about waste produced by companies  
 They should put legal limits on packaging  
 Consumers should avoid buying over-packaged products

We should recycle and reuse useful materials.  
 There are collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles  
 Households can use several rubbish bins to separate waste  
 Recycling saves energy and raw materials.

#### Nuclear Power: Positives

There are several benefits to build more nuclear power stations  
 Fossil fuel like oil and gas are running out  
 Nuclear power is a sustainable energy source  
 It can be used to produce electricity without wasting natural resources  
 It could replace the use of natural resources like coal, oil or gas  
 Nuclear power stations are cleaner than fossil fuel power stations  
 They could help to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming  
 The risks of accidents are being reduced

#### Nuclear Power: negatives

Opponents of nuclear power worry about the safety of power stations  
 The building of new nuclear power stations is unpopular  
 Nobody wants to live near one  
 Nuclear waste disposal is a significant problem  
 There is currently no way to decontaminate radioactive material  
 People worry that terrorists could steal radioactive materials  
 It is safer to produce energy from solar, wind or water power.

#### 7. Family

##### Family size

Families in many countries are not as large as they used to be  
 We tend to live in small nuclear families rather than large extended families  
 Parents tend to have fewer children  
 Young children are no longer expected to work  
 Nowadays both parents often work  
 It costs so much to bring children up  
 It is more difficult to raise a large family

##### Working parents (also see “gender” topic)

Children and their parents seem to be less close nowadays  
 Parents spend less time with their children  
 Women traditionally stayed at home to cook, clean and look after children  
 Nowadays both parents often work full time  
 Children may be left alone, or with nannies or babysitters  
 Busy parents have less contact with their children  
 Many families no longer eat meals together  
 Children spend more time with friends or surfing the Internet

##### Negative effects on Children

The lack of closeness in families can have a negative effect on children  
 Many parents have no idea how their children spend their time  
 Friends, television and the Internet become the main influence on children's behavior

Teenagers are influenced by peer pressure  
 Some of them join gangs  
 Juvenile delinquency is on the increase  
 Parents should be more involved with their children's upbringing  
 Young people need positive role models

### Divorce

In the past, divorce was unacceptable  
 It was considered to be embarrassing for a family  
 People stayed together for religious or family reasons  
 Divorce is more socially acceptable nowadays  
 It has become much more common  
 Divorce can be extremely stressful  
 Lone parents may face financial difficulties  
 Many single parents have to rely on benefits paid by the state  
 Divorce can have a negative effect on children  
 Children from single-parent families are more likely to get lower grades or drop out of school.  
 The rise in divorce rates may be connected to some social problems

### Care for Old people

Caring for elderly people was traditionally the responsibility of families  
 Adults had to look after their elderly parents  
 A woman's job was to stay at home taking care of her family  
 Nowadays, fewer elderly people are looked after by their relatives  
 Residential homes provide care for large number of elderly people  
 Some families are unable to look after elderly relatives  
 Families tend to be smaller these days, and women often have full-time jobs  
 Cares homes provide a professional service for senior citizens  
 Nurses are better trained than family members

### Care for Old people: Opinion

The best form of care for the elderly depends on the family situation  
 It depends on whether family members have the time resources  
 We all have a responsibility towards the older people in our society  
 Governments should invest money in facilities and training for care workers.

## 8. Gender

### Gender and education

Men and women should have access to the same educational opportunities  
 Males and females should be accepted onto courses according to their abilities  
 It is wrong to discriminate against students because of their gender  
 Gender should be irrelevant in education  
 Student's achievements should depend on hard work and individual merit  
 In the UK, there are similar numbers of male and female students in higher education

### Gender and work

Men and women should have access to the same professional opportunities  
 Both man and women should be able to pursue a career  
 They should earn equal salaries  
 They should be employed according to their abilities, qualifications and experience

Traditionally women have been restricted to certain roles  
 They were often employed as secretaries or receptionists  
 Nowadays, a range of occupations is available to both sexes  
 Career success depends on individual merit

### Women's and Men's roles in the Family

Some people argue that a mother should not work  
 She should stay at home and bring up her children  
 The father should be the breadwinner of the family  
 Others believe that both parents should share these responsibilities  
 Working women can take maternity leave during and after pregnancy  
 Many mothers continue to work after this period  
 Many fathers and mothers share their parenting and domestic responsibilities  
 They contribute equally to childcare, cooking and cleaning  
 Some women many have better career prospects than their husbands.  
 Paternity leave and "househusbands" are becoming more common  
 Traditional gender roles and gradually changing  
 Families can divide roles and responsibilities in the most convenient way.

## 9. Genetic Engineering

### Positives of genetic engineering

Genetic engineering is the practice of manipulating the genes of an organism  
 It is used to produce crops that are more resistant to insects and diseases  
 Some genetically modified crops grow more quickly  
 Some drugs and vaccines are produced by genetic engineering  
 It may become possible to change human's genetic characteristics.  
 Scientists may use genetic engineering to cure diseases.  
 Inherited illnesses would no longer exist  
 Genes could be changed before a baby is born  
 It could also be possible to clone human organs  
 We could all have replacement body part  
 Humans could live longer, healthier lives

### Negatives of genetic engineering

There are ethical concerns about human genetic engineering  
 Parents might want to choose their children's characteristics  
 This would be unnatural  
 It would be unacceptable in most religions  
 Soldiers could be cloned from the genes of the strongest people  
 Clones might be used like robots to do certain jobs  
 Clones might even be developed just for organ replacements  
 Society and human evolution would change completely  
 Currently, human genetic engineering is prohibited

### Genetically-Modified (GM) foods: Advantages

Farmers can produce crops that grow bigger and faster  
 Some GM crops are more resistant to disease or insects  
 This could be important for food production in developing countries

Faster growing cereals, fruit and vegetables will mean more profit  
GM foods can be modified to look perfect  
They may be more attractive to customers

**Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Disadvantages**

There may be risks involved in the genetic engineering of foods.  
GM crops might change whole ecosystems  
Food chains could be broken if crops are resistant to predators  
Organic foods are produced without chemicals or genetic modification  
Organic farming may be slower and more expensive  
However, the environment is not damaged by fertilizers or pesticides.

**10. Global issues****Problems in developing countries**

Developing countries face a range of problems  
Standards of healthcare and education are low  
Life expectancy is usually lower than in developed countries  
There is a lack of infrastructure, employment and good quality housing  
Many people are forced to live in poverty  
Food, drinking water and basic medicines are in short supply

**How to help developing countries**

The best form of help for developing countries is development aid  
Richer nations can help by investing in long-term projects  
Governments and charities can help by building new houses and schools  
Globalization may also help developing countries  
Multi-national companies can create jobs in developing countries  
On the other hand, many people emigrate to find work in richer countries  
They often send money back home to their families  
This money helps to improve the standard of living in developing countries

**Immigration**

Some people move to another country in search of a better life  
Many immigrants come from less developed countries  
Richer, industrialized countries may offer opportunities for employment  
Free healthcare and schooling are available in some developed countries  
Other people migrate to a foreign country to improve their academic qualifications

**Positives of immigration and Multi-cultural societies**

From an economic perspective, immigration can be extremely positive  
Many immigrants have skills that are needed in the country they move to  
Immigrants who find work contribute to the economy of their new country  
Many immigrants send money home to help family members  
Immigration also creates cultural diversity  
People of many different nationalities learn to live together  
This can help people to become more open-minded and tolerant

**Negatives of Immigration**

Some people believe that immigrants take jobs that should go to local people  
Some immigrant workers work longer hours for less money  
Companies might pay lower salaries to immigrant workers  
Unemployment rates could rise if there are too many immigrants

**Opinions about Immigration**

Immigration can help the economy of a country  
It can create multi-cultural societies  
However, immigration needs to be controlled  
In many countries, immigrants need visas or work permit  
Governments should stop companies from exploiting immigrant workers  
Foreign and local workers should have the right to equal pay and conditions

**Positives of Globalization**

Business of becoming increasingly international  
Multi-national companies do business across the world  
Companies like MacDonald's can be seen on high streets in most cities  
Goods are produced in one country and sold in many others  
A global economy means free trade between countries  
This can strengthen political relationships  
Globalization can also create opportunities for employment  
It encourages investment in less developed countries  
It could reduce poverty in the developing world

**Negatives of Globalization**

Globalization is not always beneficial to everyone  
Companies can move to countries where labour is cheap  
This creates redundancies, or job losses  
Employees cannot be confident that they have stable jobs  
Companies sometimes exploit their employees in developing countries  
Global trade creates more waste and pollution

**The future of Globalization**

There should be global regulations for salaries and working conditions  
Governments should impose laws to protect the environment

**11. Government and Society****What governments can do**

Governments provide public services like healthcare and education  
They support people who are living in poverty or unable to work  
Governments raise money by taxing working people  
They can spend money on resources and campaigns  
They can introduce new laws  
They can impose taxes  
They can raise people's awareness of issues (e.g. climate change/healthy eating)  
They can influence people's habits and opinions  
They can create jobs

They can regulate the activities of companies such as banks  
They can provide resources for schools  
They are also responsible for the security and well-being of their citizens  
They control armed forces and police forces

**Public services**

Governments pay the salaries of public sector workers like police officers and teachers  
The necessary money is raised by taxing people's income  
Free education and healthcare may be provided by the state  
Some governments control public transport systems and even TV channels  
In other countries, these services are provided by private companies  
Some people believe that competition between private companies is good  
It helps to improve quality while bringing prices down  
Other people think that essential services should be free  
Governments should pay for them

**Censorship: Opinion**

Governments can censor what public sees or reads in the media  
To a certain extent censorship is necessary  
We should use censorship to protect children from violent images  
Some computer games involve killing people or committing crimes  
The Internet also needs to be controlled  
Many websites show pornography and violence  
There should be age limits for websites and computers games  
Parents need to take responsibility for checking what their children watch  
It is impossible for governments to control everything we see

**Video cameras in public places**

The use of CCTV is becoming widespread  
Video cameras have been installed in many public places  
They are supposed to protect us and deter criminals  
Many people think that this surveillance violates our privacy  
The authorities could build databases with our pictures and identities  
We should not be treated like criminals

**Smart cards: Positives**

Governments will probably introduce a digital identification card system  
Smart cards will have benefits and drawbacks  
They could help to reduce crime  
They could hold personal information, such as DNA  
Digital bank cards could contain fingerprint information  
It would be very difficult for criminals to use a stolen card  
It would be easier for police to identify people and catch criminals

**Smart cards: Negatives**

Many people are worried about losing their privacy  
Governments could store all our personal and medical information  
This information could be used by insurance companies

Employers could check our health records

**People with Disabilities**

People with disabilities should be treated the same as everybody else  
They should have the same rights as other people  
They should have access to the same jobs as other citizens  
Discriminations against disabled people is illegal in many countries  
Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs should be installed in public buildings  
Support teacher can be employed to help children with learning difficulties

**12. Guns and Weapons****Why guns should be legal:**

In some countries, people are allowed to own firearms  
Individuals have the right to protect themselves  
People can use guns in self defence  
This deters criminals

**Why gun ownership should be illegal:**

There is a risk of accidents with guns  
The number of violent crimes increases when guns are available  
Criminals may be armed  
The police then need to use guns  
Suicide rates have been shown to rise when guns are available  
Guns create violent societies with high murder rates

**Why polices should use guns**

Many criminals use weapons  
The threat of a gun can deter criminals  
Police officers can force a criminal to surrender  
It is easier to arrest someone and avoid physical violence  
The police may shoot violent criminals in self defence  
They can protect the public  
They can shoot an escaping criminal who poses a serious danger to the public

**Why police should not carry guns**

There is a risk of accidents and mistakes  
The police might shoot an unarmed criminal or an innocent person  
Accidents can happen in public places  
There are several alternatives to guns (e.g. tear gas, sprays and electric shock weapons)  
Only special police units should use guns

**Arm Trade: Positives**

The export of arms, or weapons, is an extremely controversial issue  
Governments of rich, industrialized countries sell arms to each other  
This industry creates jobs and wealth  
The trade of weapons may improve relationships between governments



**Arms Trade: Negatives**

Weapons may be used in conflicts and wars  
 The supply of arms could be responsible for deaths  
 Governments are promoting war in order to make a profit  
 Rich countries can influence the politics of other nations

**Nuclear weapons**

Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying whole cities  
 A nuclear war between two countries would destroy both countries  
 Nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent  
 They prevent wars from starting

**Nuclear weapons: Opinion**

Nuclear weapons should be prohibited  
 Governments should limit the production of nuclear weapons  
 There is a danger of nuclear weapons being obtained by terrorists  
 Nuclear weapons cannot be used against terrorist organizations

**Armed Forces: Positives**

Armed forces provide security and protection  
 They deter military attack by another country  
 They can also be used to maintain peace within countries  
 They can be used to give the police extra support  
 Soldiers are also used to help in emergency situations, such as after a natural disaster

**Armed forces: negatives**

Armies require a lot of funding from governments  
 Too much money is spent on weapons and military technology  
 This money could be spent on schools, hospitals and other public services

**13. Health****Diet**

The human body requires a balanced diet  
 An unhealthy diet can cause various health problems  
 Obesity, diabetes and heart disease are on the increase  
 Many people nowadays rely on fast food or pre-prepared meals  
 These foods often contain too much fat, salt and sugar  
 They are cheap to buy and very easy to prepare  
 Many young people have grown up on a diet of convenience foods  
 Populations in developed countries are increasingly overweight

**Exercise**

Regular exercise is essential in maintaining a healthy body  
 Exercise burns calories and helps to build healthy bones and muscles  
 Doctors advise exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes  
 Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle  
 We tend to walk less and do desk jobs  
 Most adults relax by watching television  
 Children play video games rather than doing outdoor sports  
 In the past, people were more active in their jobs and at home

**Government's Role**

Governments have a significant role to play in reducing obesity  
 More and more people, including young children are seriously overweight  
 They are at risk of heart disease and diabetes  
 This situation will increase the burden on hospitals and taxpayers  
 Hospitals rely on the government for money and resources  
 Governments should promote a healthy diet and regular exercise  
 There should be more time for sports on school timetables  
 Unhealthy junk food should be banned from school menus  
 People need information about what foods contain  
 Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content  
 The British Government recommends eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day

**State Health system: advantages**

Good healthcare should be available to everyone for free  
 State healthcare is paid by the government using money from taxes  
 Everyone has access to the same quality of care and treatment  
 Private healthcare is unfair because only wealthy people can afford it  
 The National Health Service in the UK provides free healthcare for every resident

**Private Healthcare: advantages**

State hospitals are often very large and difficult to run  
 Private hospitals have shorter waiting lists for operations and appointments  
 Patients can benefit from faster treatment  
 Many people prefer to pay for more a personal service  
 Patients have their own room and more comfortable facilities

**Alternative medicine: Positives**

People are increasingly using alternative medicines to treat illnesses.  
 For example, acupuncture can be used to treat backache  
 Herbal medicines can be used to treat allergies or viruses  
 Many patients report positive experiences with these treatments  
 Some traditional cures have been used for hundreds of years

**Alternative medicine: Negatives**

Many alternative medicines have not been tested scientifically  
 They may have no beneficial effect at all  
 They may cause unknown side effects  
 People should trust the opinions of qualified doctors  
 An illness could get worse without treatment from a doctor

**Stress**

Modern lifestyles are increasingly stressful  
 People work long hours with strict deadlines  
 Our busy lifestyles mean we have less time to relax  
 Unemployment is a major cause of stress  
 Children may be affected by their parents' relationship problems  
 Tests and exams can also cause stress

**How to reduce stress**

Stress can be reduced by taking regular exercise and eating a healthy diet  
 It is also important to get sufficient sleep and make leisure time a priority  
 People should work less overtime and take regular holidays  
 Schools have started to employ psychologists  
 They can offer emotional support to students  
 They can help students to cope with exam stress

**14. Housing and Architecture****State/council housing**

In some countries the government provides state or council housing  
 This helps people who cannot afford to buy their own house  
 It can be argued that state housing creates dependence on the government  
 People should be rely on the government to look after them  
 People have no incentive to earn money and buy their own home  
 Council properties are often made with cheap, poor-quality materials.

**Old Buildings**

Historic buildings are part of a country's heritage  
 They should be protected  
 Old buildings are often considered to be works of art  
 They give character to cities and attract tourists  
 They show us how people lived in the past  
 We identify countries by architectural symbols like the pyramids in Egypt  
 Governments should spend money on looking after historic buildings  
 They need regular repairs and maintenance  
 New buildings should be designed to complement them

**Modern/green buildings**

Modern buildings should be designed to be environmentally friendly  
 They should use less energy and produce less waste  
 Modern insulation can make houses more energy-efficient  
 Solar and wind power can be used to generate electricity  
 Rainwater and waste water can be recycled and used to flush toilets.  
 Modern glass buildings take advantage of natural light

**15. Language****English as an international language**

English is widely used around the world  
 It is becoming a global second language  
 It is the dominant language of technology, science and international business  
 International business meetings are regularly held in English  
 The most important textbooks and journals are published in English  
 The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world

**Negative of English as an International Language**

If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear  
 The dominant language brings its own culture

American culture has become popular around the world  
 Other cultures may be damaged  
 As an alternative to English, a new global language could be invented  
 It would have no nationality or culture attached to it  
 This could help to promote international peace and understanding  
 Esperanto is an example of a language that was invented with this aim

**16. Money****Money and Society**

Society has become increasingly materialistic  
 People aspire to earn more money  
 They want a bigger house or a better car  
 We connect wealth and material possessions with happiness and success  
 Brands like "Armani" or "Mercedes" are status symbols  
 Advertising creates new desires and needs  
 It persuades us to buy the latest styles

**Positives of Consumerism**

Consumerism creates employment  
 It helps to reduce poverty  
 It encourages innovation and creativity in business  
 We live in a global economy  
 We have a better quality of life

**Negatives of Consumerism**

Consumerist societies create more waste  
 They use more natural resources  
 They cause damage to the environment  
 Consumerism creates a "throw-away" culture  
 Advertisers tell us who we are and what we want  
 Wealth does not lead to happiness  
 Materialism causes greed and crime  
 We should return to traditional values like sharing

**17. Personality****Happiness**

Happiness means different things to different people  
 It can be described as a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment  
 People enjoy spending time with family and friends  
 Hobbies, sports and games can be a source of fun and enjoyment  
 Some people see money as a source of happiness  
 Other people define happiness as something deeper  
 In order to be truly happy it is necessary to live a good life  
 We need to feel that we are doing something useful with our lives  
 Some people get a sense of achievement from their work  
 Others find happiness in bringing up their children  
 Religion or a sense of purpose can also be a source of happiness

**Success**

People define success in different ways  
 Some people get a sense of achievement from raising a family  
 For others, success is defined by wealth or status  
 We often think of rich and famous people as being successful in life  
 Millionaires like Bill Gates are considered to be successful  
 They have risen to the top in their chosen professions  
 For some, being successful means achieving personal or professional goals  
 They see success as the result of hard work  
 Success in any field requires long-term planning and effort

**Nature or Nurture**

Some people believe that our personalities are determined mainly by genetics  
 We inherit our abilities and talents from our parents  
 Others think that our education and upbringing are more important  
 We develop according to the influences around us  
 Our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature  
 Many people argue that we control our own destinies  
 We can shape our own personalities  
 By working hard we can achieve and goal that we put our minds to  
 Many successful people are “self-made”  
 We are not limited by our genetic characteristic or upbringing

**18. Sport and Leisure****Arguments against Professional/competitive sport**

Sport has become a business  
 Professional sport encourages people to compete for money  
 Many sports stars are only concerned about money and fame  
 Some athletes take drugs in order to win at any cost  
 Competitors are often selfish and rude  
 They are not good role models for children  
 All sports should be amateur  
 Sports should be leisure activities rather than jobs  
 People should do sporting activities for enjoyment and health reasons  
 Taking part is more important than winning

**Arguments for Professional sport**

Professional sports are the same as any other business  
 Many people are employed in the sports industry  
 People should be able to use their talents to earn a salary  
 Sports stars entertain millions of people  
 Money is necessary to improve facilities and train athletes  
 The level of professional sport is much higher than that of amateur sport

**Arguments for Competitive sport**

Competition is a natural instinct in humans  
 In daily life we compete to get jobs or the highest grades  
 Sports are a safe form of competition

Competition is healthy because it pushes us to give our best  
 Competitors and fans can release energy and aggression  
 Supporters of teams feel a sense of belonging to a community

**Opinion: professional sport salaries are too high**

Sports professionals earn too much money  
 They do not provide a vital service  
 Football players, for example, earn enormous salaries by simply kicking a ball  
 We could all live happily without professional football  
 Life would be difficult without doctors, engineers and other vital professionals.  
 Society does not seem to value these professions as highly as professional sport  
 Sports salaries should be compatible with the wages most people earn

**Opinion: professional sport salaries are fair**

It is fair that the best professional earn a lot of money  
 Sport is a multi-million-pound industry  
 There is a large audience of sports fans  
 Sports on television attract many viewers  
 Sports stars have dedicated hours of practice to developing their fitness and skills  
 Only the most talented among them will reach the top  
 A sports career many only last 10 years  
 Sports fans are willing to pay to support their teams

**Sports and Politics**

Some people think that sport and politics should remain separate  
 Governments are involved in the hosting of sporting events such as the Olympics.  
 These events attract investment and create jobs.  
 The Olympic Games are an advertisement for the host nation  
 They attract huge numbers of visitors and sports fans  
 Wealthy countries tend to hold these events  
 Developing countries should be given the chance to become hosts

**19. Television, Internet, Phones****Positives of television**

Watching television is a good way to relax  
 It is many people's favorite way to wind down after a hard day at work  
 Television programs can be entertaining and enjoyable  
 Viewers have access to a huge variety of entertainment channels  
 Television brings the best comedians, musicians and actors into our homes  
 Programmers can also be informative and educational  
 News coverage makes the public aware of events around the world  
 Documentaries can make learning more interesting

**Negatives of Television**

Television is having a negative impact on society  
 Some people link violence on television with crime rates in the real world  
 Children copy the behavior they see on the screen  
 Children are less healthy because they spend less time playing

Advertisers direct their marketing at children  
Most programs do not require much thought  
Watching TV is a waste of time

**Opinions about Television**

Television has many benefits  
However, it can be addictive  
Children should play outside rather than sit in front of a screen all day  
Behaviour shown on TV can influence people  
Parents should choose carefully what their children watch  
Children should not be exposed to violence, swearing or sexual images  
Advertising during children's programs should be strictly controlled  
TV companies should make more positive, educational programs

**Positives of the Internet**

There are many advantages to using the Internet  
It gives us instant access to information on almost any subject  
Shops and other services are now available online  
People can buy goods and services from the comfort of their homes  
The Internet is starting to replace other forms of entertainment  
It has revolutionized communication  
We can keep in touch by email or instant messenger services  
Video messaging is becoming common for business meetings

**Negatives of the internet**

Many websites contain offensive content  
Some sites show violent or sexual images  
Parents find it difficult to control what their children see online  
They do not always know who their children are chatting to  
With so many websites it is difficult to search for good information  
Criminals increasingly use the Internet to steal people's money

**Internet compared to newspaper and books**

Newspapers and books are now published online as well as in print  
We can read the news in any language from any country in the world  
It costs nothing to publish or access information on the Internet  
The Internet allows anybody to publish their own writing  
Newspaper articles and books are written by professionals  
Professionals produce better quality writing than amateur  
People still buy newspapers and books because they are portable  
People do not like reading from a screen

**Positives of Mobile Phones**

The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world  
Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate  
We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are  
Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music  
Mobiles have also become fashion accessories

**Negatives of Mobile Phones**

Mobiles phones can be a problem in some public places  
Ringing phones cause disturbance in cinemas and school lessons  
Some people are not aware that others can hear their conversations  
Mobile phones may also interfere with electronic equipment  
Their waves could cause damage to our brains  
Mobile phones can also be a dangerous distraction  
Using a phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration  
Mobile phones are a popular target for thieves

**Opinion about Mobile Phones**

The benefits of mobile phones outweigh the drawbacks  
We need to use these phones with care

**20. Tourism****Positives of Tourism**

Tourism is a popular leisure activity  
People go on holiday to relax and have fun  
Tourists can experience different cultures  
They can sunbathe on beaches or go sight-seeing  
Travelling abroad opens our minds  
We can learn to speak other languages  
The tourist trade is vital for some economies  
It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment  
Some areas rely on tourism for their income  
Tourists spend money  
Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies  
It helps to improve the standard of living  
Low-cost airlines are making it cheaper to travel abroad

**Negative effects of tourism**

Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment  
The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals  
Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels  
Tourism creates pollution and waste  
It puts pressure on local resources  
Local traditional and cultures may be endangered  
A rise in the cost of living affects local people  
The price of goods, services and housing may increase significantly

**The future of tourism**

Government should introduce laws to protect natural environments and local cultures  
Tourism should have a low impact on wildlife  
Renewable resources like solar or water power should be used  
Waste should be recycled  
Local businesses such as farms should be supported

**21. Traditional vs Modern****Losing traditional skills**

Because of industrialization and global trade, many traditions have disappeared  
 Global advertising encourages everyone to buy the same products  
 Most products are now made in factories  
 Machinery has replaced skilled human labour  
 Factory work is boring and leaves people feeling unfulfilled  
 Goods are produced very quickly and in large numbers  
 Products are cheaper, which means that more people can buy them

**Examples**

Clothes are mass produced in standard sizes  
 People wear similar clothes, rather than traditional costumes  
 Jeans and T-shirt are now worn throughout the world  
 Historic buildings took skilled craftsmen years to build  
 Modern concrete, steel and glass buildings are built in only weeks or months  
 There are fewer people who can create hand-made goods

**Traditional customs**

Traditional customs are still important during weddings and religious festivals  
 People wear traditional costumes and eat special foods  
 It is important to maintain our different cultural identities  
 We should celebrate festivals, teach traditional skills and protect historic places

**22. Transport****Traffic problems**

Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work  
 Most people live in the suburbs outside city centre  
 Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day  
 They tend to travel alone  
 Cars and road space are not used efficiently  
 This causes traffic jams during the rush hour

**Traffic solutions**

In order to reduce traffic we should change our working habits  
 The internet can now be used to connect people  
 More people could work from home  
 Meetings can be held as video conferences  
 Workers could be given flexible timetables  
 Another solution would be to tax drivers  
 Workers should share their cars and travel together  
 In London, for example, there is a congestion charge  
 This helps to raise money for better public transport  
 Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient

**Positives of Public transport**

We need to reduce our dependence on cars  
 Parking a car can be extremely difficult in big cities  
 Well-designed transport systems are comfortable and convenient

Modern public transport can be fast and cheap  
 Public transport can help to reduce pollution in cities  
 Investment in buses and trains will ease traffic congestion  
 Buses can be given special lands to avoid traffic

**Negatives of public transport**

Public transport is often slow and unreliable  
 Metro systems and trains are often dirty and crowded  
 People feel like "sardines in a can"  
 Cars are much more comfortable

**Road safety**

Driving while tired or drunk is extremely dangerous  
 Mobile phones can be a dangerous distraction for drivers  
 They draw the driver's attention away from the road  
 The use of phones while driving has been banned in many countries  
 Punishments are becoming stricter  
 Television campaigns are used to remind people to drive safely  
 Speed cameras have become more common  
 Speed bumps are another form of traffic calming  
 Many streets are designed with the aim of slowing traffic down

**23. Water****Importance of clean water**

Water is as necessary natural resource  
 Humans need access to clean, safe drinking water in order to live  
 Poor water quality is a major cause of disease and death in some countries  
 Water usually needs to be treated before we can drink it  
 Developing countries often lack the means to treat and supply water to citizens  
 Developed countries tend to have much better sanitation  
 Citizens have access to clean tap water  
 Drinking water is not contaminated by sewage or waste water  
 The supply of clean water would improve public health in many developing countries

**Water supply**

Urban life would be impossible without water supply systems  
 These systems are massive engineering projects  
 Many professionals are involved in their planning, construction and maintenance  
 The supply and distribution of water are major concerns  
 Water is becoming scarce in some countries  
 Areas that suffer droughts often need to import water  
 As populations grow, there is more pressure on water supplies  
 This could lead to a water crisis

**Water and politics**

The supply of water is also an important political issue  
 Huge amount of water are needed for agriculture and industry  
 The irrigation of crops accounts for a large proportions of water use

A water crisis could lead to political conflicts or even wars

#### **Argument: water should be free**

Some people believe that water should be free for everyone

Governments should supply water to all homes at no cost

Private companies should not be allowed to profit from this natural resource

Money from taxes can be used to pay for water supply systems

#### **Argument: water should not be free**

If water is free, people take it for granted

They do not think about how much water they waste

They leave taps running while washing or brushing their teeth

If we have to pay for water, we will use it more responsibly

Water supply systems are extremely expensive

Investment is needed to maintain and improve them

Private companies may provide a better service than governments

If they provide an efficient service, they will make more money

They will repair leaks to avoid losing money

#### **Bottled Water: Opinions**

Some people carry bottles of water wherever they go

For example, they take bottles of water to work or to the gym

They believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water

They also argue that it tastes better

However, other people believe that we should consume less bottled water

Plastic water bottles add to litter and waste problems

Companies should not be able to make a profit from water

It is unethical to make money by selling packaged water

There is no difference in quality between bottled and tap water

## **24. Work**

#### **The benefits of staying in the same job for life**

Employees have a stable career with one employer

They have a good pension and health insurance

Their salaries gradually increase

They may be promoted within the organization

They demonstrate loyalty

Experienced staff can be trusted with more responsibility

They become part of a team

There is a clearly defined path for development

#### **The benefits of not staying in the same job**

People often change jobs in order to further their career

Another company may offer a promotion or a higher salary

People who change jobs can gain experience

They can learn different skills

Changing jobs is interesting and challenging

People can retrain in a different occupation

In a fast-changing world workers need to be flexible

People need to develop a range of experience and skills

#### **Self-employment**

Nowadays, it is easy to set up a company

The Internet provides a global marketplace

Self-employment offers greater freedom than working for a company

However, there are risks to starting a new business

Self-employed people may face financial difficulties

Many businesses fail to make a profit

There is less stability in self-employment

There are no benefits like pensions, sick pay and holiday pay

Self-employment involved hard work, long hours and total responsibility

#### **Unemployment**

Unemployment is a big problem for individuals, communities and society

Some people are unable to find a job

They may not have the sufficient level of education or qualifications

They may find themselves homeless

Unemployment causes frustration and stress

Jobless people may become involved in crime as a means to get money

The unemployed need careers advice

Governments need to provide vocational courses and retraining

#### **Unemployment benefits: positives**

Some governments pay unemployment benefits in order to help jobless people

Unemployed people need financial support until they find a new job

By claiming benefits they can continue to pay for their homes

The benefits system helps to reduce poverty, homelessness and crime

#### **Unemployment benefits: negatives**

Some people claim benefits rather than working

They become dependent on the government

They are not motivated to find a job

The benefits system is a burden on taxpayers

All citizens should work to earn a living and support themselves

Receiving benefits affects people's self esteem

#### **Work/Life Balance**

It is important to achieve a balance between work time and leisure or family time

Too much work can result in stress and poor health

"workaholics" may neglect their families and friends

People need to take regular holidays

Companies should be expect employees to work overtime

Nowadays, many people work part-time or have flexible working hours

Technology allow people to work from home

Many companies provide childcare facilities

A good work/ life balance can raise job satisfaction

Happy, healthy workers are more productive

**Technology and work**

Internet, fax and mobile phone technologies have revolutionized working life

Workers can communicate via email, online networks and video conferencing

Technology can connect workers in different countries

It gives people more freedom

It can also save time and money

Some people believe that offices could disappear in the future

Virtual online offices may replace them

**Child labour**

In some countries, children are exploited

They do repetitive jobs for very low pay

Children are often used in agriculture and factory work

The employment of children is prohibited in other countries

Many people think that children should be free to enjoy their childhood

Governments should make education a priority

They should build new schools

They should supply the resources to educate children

Children need to be given the knowledge and skills for adult life